

The Election-Judge Merrimon-His Duty.

The indications now are that Caldwell has received a small nominal majority in the State.

We say "nominal majority," for the reason that we do not believe that he has received an actual majority of the legal votes cast.

We are still of the opinion that it will be necessary to have official returns before anything definite can be ascertained. Under all circumstances, and counting all the fraudulent votes cast, the vote is exceedingly close one.

We do not by any means, however, admit that all the votes cast were legal votes. From it we are informed that in Brunswick county, at one precinct, there were eighty votes cast that were not registered.

At one precinct in this county, we learn that one if not two negro military companies marched with arms to the polls.

We are informed also, that in this county men were registered on the day of election.

We are informed also, that others were registered after sun-down, before the election, in plain violation of the letter of the law.

At other places the votes cast exceeded the number of voting population, as shown by the last census. Nor are these all the evidences of fraud.

In addition to fraud, intimidation was freely resorted to. After Greeley's election victory, we will neither fear nor hesitate to make full disclosure of the force and intimidation practised upon them.

In view, therefore, of all the facts, we demand that Judge Merrimon should cast the election of Governor Caldwell before the next Legislature.

We do not say this from any churlish feeling, consequent upon defeat and disappointment, but we demand it as a duty from Judge Merrimon to the Conservative people of North Carolina and of the United States.

From the Legislature of North Carolina we can and will obtain justice. If fraudulent votes have been cast, and of this no reasonable man can entertain a doubt, the patient, honest and intelligent investigation that the Legislature will give the matter will enable the world to see the truth, and the whole truth.

This is all we ask. If we have been fairly beaten—if a majority of the legal votes cast, a week ago to-day, were cast against the Conservative ticket, we do not ask that Judge Merrimon be declared Governor of North Carolina.

We do demand, however, that he be legally elected, that we shall not be elevated out of our victory.

We repeat that we do not speak from mere temper or soreness or passion, but from a settled determination to have the matter judicially determined.

The Constitution of the State makes it the duty of the Legislature to decide all cases of contested elections for Governor and other officers on the State ticket, under such rules and regulations as it may prescribe.

We now, therefore, formally demand of Judge Merrimon and the other candidates on our State ticket, to contest formally the election of their Radical opponents, so that the Legislature may take the proper steps in the premises.

We demand this in the name of the Conservative people of North Carolina, and of the United States, and we call upon the press of the State to unite with us in the demand, and also to unite with us in calling upon our friends in all parts of the State to gather up and put upon record the evidences of fraud that now everywhere abound.

We intend that this thing shall be sifted to the bottom.

What Next?

Political action will now be withdrawn from North Carolina and turn to other fields of conflict. There are several engagements yet to be fought before the opposing armies of Reform and Radicalism join in the great "final struggle." These are efforts to gain the advantage ground for the November fight, they are not only of interest, but of importance as well.

On Monday last, county and municipal officers were voted for in Kentucky. This election possessed little or no interest, and has been, indeed, overlooked in the excitement in regard to the real issue in this State. The election was of no real importance in itself, and then the position of Kentucky is too well defined.

The first general State election takes place in West Virginia, on the 24th of August. The point of interest in the election centres in the contest for Governor. The present Governor, John J. Jacob, who has hitherto been a Democrat, failing to receive the nomination, has announced himself a candidate, and will receive the Grant support. While the contest will not be altogether a party one, still the lines are closely drawn, and will attract much public attention.

In California, there is an important local election on the 24th of September.

On the following day, in Vermont, occurs a general election, which is for Governor and State officers, a Legislature and members of Congress. Ordinarily the elections in the Green Mountain State have not been attended with interest, so pronounced Radical has it been. But the Liberal movement has made such headway in the ranks of Radicalism, even in Vermont. The Democrats and Liberal Republicans have nominated a ticket in common, with a Republican for Governor and a Democrat heading the electoral ticket. The nominations throughout are divided equally between the two parties. And now, although Vermont has always been one of the strongest Radical States, according to its population, of any in the Union, the disaffection in the Administration ranks is so broadspread, and the union of the Liberals and Democrats so cordial, that the miracle of revolutionizing Vermont, politically, may be witnessed next month.

A few days later, September 9th, comes the Maine election. Here, too, the Liberal Republicans and Democrats have united upon C. P. KIMBALL, the Democratic nominee, for Governor. In Maine the contest, both for State officers and Congressmen, will be very spirited, and we shall look for important changes in the numbers of Congress, if not in the State officers. The

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